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Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

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THE EVENING SUN, Per Month, \$1.00.
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year, \$10.00.
THE EVENING SUN, Foreign, Per Mo. \$1.50.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 120 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President, Frank A. Munsey, 120 Nassau street; Vice-President, Robert A. M. Thompson, 120 Nassau street; Secretary, R. H. Thompson, 120 Nassau street; Treasurer, W. M. Thompson, 120 Nassau street.

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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

Senator Lenroot's Election.

In the election of Representative LENROOT to be a Senator from Wisconsin there is an even deeper significance than the answer to disloyalty. Nobody could seriously question that on any real test the people of this country would show themselves loyal, perhaps in one community quite 100 per cent., perhaps in one only 90 or 80 per cent., but overwhelmingly loyal everywhere. But what the election of Mr. LENROOT shows particularly is that the voters of the United States are coming to a realization of the great truth that a self-governing people can make no greater mistake than to think that because the country happens to be at war they must follow blindly its Chief Executive in whatever he does or wants done.

There is never going to be the slightest danger that in war times a Democratic President will lack the support of high minded Republicans in his policies that are right and necessary. There is never going to be any danger that a Republican President will lack the support of high minded Democrats. But for one whole year, since this country declared war against Germany, there has been grave danger that everybody in Congress, Republican as well as Democrat, would become a mere puppet of the Chief Executive in the handling not only of war measures but of all measures.

Now comes LENROOT and makes a straight out fight on party principles in what was known as the hottest bed of disloyalty in the whole country. He had a good record in Congress. He had proved to be able and zealous in the performance of public service. He was not afraid to face the Wisconsin Bolsheviks. He was no more afraid to stand up straight for his party principles; and though the La Follette faction was undoubtedly knifing him wherever it could drive the blade home, he beat the Socialist candidate out of his boots, and he gave the Democratic candidate a satisfactory thrashing.

The election of Mr. LENROOT opens the way to a balancing up of the two parties on the rational lines of fundamental principles and permanent issues. We ought to see an end of the condition of legislative affairs which has existed for the last year, where Republican Representatives and Senators have feared to oppose the Executive branch of the Government in anything less than some one might accuse them of playing politics in a national crisis.

Mr. LENROOT will go to the Senate to be there, as he has been in the House since the war broke out, a strong Republican, always ready to back up the Government as against Germany, but not willing to abandon his convictions and to compromise his principles as against the Democratic party or any other party.

And as the light has thus broken in Wisconsin, so may it break in every debatable State in the Union and in every debatable Congress district, that Republicans may be elected to the House next autumn not to be mere echoes of Democratic Congressmen, but to be faithful representatives of Americanism not only in war matters but in every matter.

Back to the Great-Grandfather's Clock.

The Westminster Gazette interprets the English Government's 10.30 curfew order for London and the south of England as a reversion to the ancient habits of the great-grandfathers—breakfast at 4 in the morning; dinner at 4 in the afternoon.

Sooner or later we may come to it on this side of the water, not that the underpinnings of society would necessarily be pulled out if we did. So far as the South is concerned the change, at least in the dinner hour, would hardly be noticeable. Whether from a lingering reminiscence of more primitive colonial habits, or from proximity to the Spanish alcazar belt, the fact remains that our Southern folk very generally suspend the daily routine of affairs and go home to dinner in the middle of the afternoon. From 2.30 to 3 o'clock is about the accepted time.

the natural light of electricity into the fictitious illumination of the sun would work bewilderment. Matinee might really be given in the morning and 6 o'clock in the afternoon become curtain raising time for evening theatre. And 6 o'clock was the theatre hour in the great-grandfatherly days. That was the time when night life began for the Will Honeycombs of 200 years ago—soon after our present White Way breakfast hour.

Yet the Honeycombs' light did not seem to so shine before men that their good works were overwhelmingly in evidence. Night life under the tallow dips of dashing Wigs' days doubtless was much the same as it is under the electric blaze of our White Wayward Ones. A matter rather of mechanics than of morals. A war curfew order need not necessarily conflict with any established standards of White Way impropriety.

Massachusetts Ratifies the Prohibition Amendment.

Two facts mark the prompt ratification of the proposed prohibition amendment to the Constitution of the United States by the Legislature of Massachusetts as of particular importance in the struggle against the liquor traffic.

The first is that Massachusetts is not expected to be among the States to ratify early. For many years the State has had a local option law carefully drawn and strictly enforced. Each municipality having 1,000 inhabitants decides by popular vote annually whether the sale of liquor shall be allowed within its bounds. Towns with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants are not permitted to have licensed drinking places. In the larger communities the number of drinking places is restricted. The hours in which they may be open are fixed by the State and obedience to the statute is enforced generally by capable local police whose conduct is closely checked by the State police. The fees charged for licenses are high, the revenue from this source being an important consideration with the taxpayers. Finally, if the municipal authorities consider it inexpedient to issue licenses, even after an affirmative vote on the question at the polls, they cannot be compelled so to do.

The result has been that in Massachusetts the liquor traffic has been managed about as well as it may be under an enlightened system of local option, honestly and intelligently administered. In spite of this, which might well have caused the legislature to hesitate before sacrificing the State's control over the trade, they have ratified the amendment at the first session of the General Court subsequent to its submission. There can be no comfort for the advocates of the liquor trade in this.

The other fact with regard to the action of the Massachusetts legislature is of peculiar interest in New York State at this time because there, as here, an effort was made to obstruct the progress of the amendment and delay action by means of a referendum. The same arguments that were advanced in New York in support of this scheme of postponement were put forward in Massachusetts; a sudden tenderness for the popular will possessed the opponents of the amendment, and they made the air ring with their protests against "precipitate action" on a proposal that had not been voted on by the electors themselves.

Governor McCall took his stand against this callous and dishonest suggestion was pointed out as soon as it was made, and the legislature did its duty without seeking to evade in any way the responsibility the Constitution of the United States imposed on it. Neither political cowardice nor special interest was permitted to influence the proceedings and the resolution of ratification took its proper and orderly legislative course.

Massachusetts has a large and influential population of foreign born citizens and descendants of the foreign born. Its people are not more puritanical than are the people of other States, save as the traditions of political courage and political honesty have persisted within its borders from ancient times. The net of its Legislature is in accord with the most respectable of these traditions, and the failure of the design to evade responsibility is in harmony with the best records of the State.

Checks on Turkish Aggression.

The revival of the spirit of national aggressiveness in Turkey, so generously fostered by Germany in the gifts of Russian territory, is meeting with serious checks at the outset. In the north the people of the acquired districts of Kars, Batum and Ardahan are making an armed resistance to the incorporation of their country as a part of the Ottoman Empire; in the south the British have made gains that secure their hold on Palestine and the Mesopotamian valley, and that so far as the permanent establishment of an independent Arabian kingdom.

The Georgians, the strongest and most vigorous of the Transcaucasus people, have united with the Armenian residents and the Armenian refugees from Turkey to oppose the entrance of the Turkish army into the districts which have been handed over to the Turks as their share of the spoils exacted from the Bolsheviks at the Brest-Litovsk negotiations. Both of these Christian races know from experience the severity of the Turkish rule, and declare that rather than face again massacres and perhaps racial extinction as Ottoman subjects they will fight against the Turkish occupation. They have al-

ready taken possession of the port of Batum and the Russian warships in the harbor, and have met with minor successes in engagements at the mountain passes leading into the Transcaucasus region.

At the same time the British have been moving up the Euphrates valley. After securing their hold on Baghdad they gained Samarra and Tikrit on the upper Tigris, and they have passed the strongly fortified position of Hit on the Euphrates. Coordinating with this movement the Palestine forces have captured the Hedjaz railway, thus cutting off the Turks from any prospects either of relief to their troops on the south or of making the long planned advance against the Arabs at Medina or Mecca. The two British armies are now in a better position than ever before for a concerted attack upon Aleppo. They have separated the entire southern portion of Asiatic Turkey from Asia Minor. Its recovery by the Turks is practically impossible except by the concentration of a larger force than they apparently have at their command.

That the Turks expect with Germany's aid to continue their occupation of Constantinople and the control of the Straits and to force the restoration of much of their lost lands in the East there is no doubt. The growth of this power as a subversive ally of Teutonism constitutes a menace to the peace of the world, and any check on the progress of its aggression is a gain to civilization.

La Follette.

Senator ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, in his capacity as a member of Congress from the State of Wisconsin, has been repudiated by the Legislature of that State.

Pompadour Bon, in his capacity as boss of the La Follette ridden Republican party of Wisconsin, has been defeated and disowned in the open primaries held in accordance with his own carefully matured system designed to maintain his personal supremacy no matter what the cost might be to party, State or nation.

The voters of Wisconsin have indorsed at the polls the repudiation and rebuke administered by the Legislature and by the members of the electorate who took part in the primaries.

Wisconsin has given her verdict on LA FOLLETTE.

In the face of this, why does the United States Senate permit a subcommittee of one of its committees to procrastinate further in the delivery of judgment on LA FOLLETTE and his course in the national emergency?

What is the secret of LA FOLLETTE's strength in the Senate?

What mysterious influence protects him within the walls of the Capitol at Washington?

Curiosity.

That which Hyman called a low vice and Dr. Johnson described as the thirst of the soul is nowadays the means of elogging the telephone wires. It is easy to sympathize with the operator at Central, who is called upon after every explosion, rumor, prize-fight or world series game to allay the "itch of the ear that breaks out at the tongue." We hope the curious will let her alone and depend on the newspapers; the telephone is too important, too delicate a part of America these days to be congested. The day will come when all news will be bulletined by wireless to a receiver in the top of every man's hat, and the non-curious will go bareheaded. But that day is far off, and nothing but patriotism and politeness will keep the wires clear for the nation's very important business.

The educators of the future have a magnificent task in the diversion of curiosity into efficient channels. Ah, the day when man shall wish to know only that which is necessary to his particular function in the universe! Instead of wondering how many hits BENNY KAUFF made in four times up he will inquire the number of calories required to sustain life at its best on rainy Thursdays in April. To think, the man of 2018 will sigh, that a hundred years ago this day my great-grandfather, instead of attempting to discover the relation between carbohydrates and cosmos, was idly asking people what had become of the Grand Duke NICHOLAS or DUDLEY FIELD MALONE!

In that perfect future Central will be able to answer any question off-hand, and as the wires will have been superseded by unlimited ether waves they will simply sit and pour forth wisdom as fast as she can talk. Perhaps, indeed, science will have done away with the need of speech. Thought will answer thought through the ether sea; yet most of us would regret to have the human voice, woman's particularly, done away with in business. But, anyway, subscribers will have the better sort of curiosity and the operator will satisfy it. Will you explain briefly the theory of evolution? Is a silver knife best for splitting a shortcake? Is the interlocking grip recommended in two foot putts? In the fourth dimension can a pack of cards be shuffled without taking them out of the case? Questions like these will have succeeded inquiries as to who is the most powerful private citizen and what is the right time.

Curiously, according to ROCHEROUCAULT, of two kinds: one to know something useful, the other to know what somebody else doesn't know. The education of the future, in which the telephone may play a large part, will train the curious person in both kinds of curiosity. When he asks how Hipparchus finished in the fourth race at Belmont Park, the operator, after informing him, will add that the original HIPPARCHUS was the founder of

scientific astronomy, &c. When he demands to know whether JOHN L. SULLIVAN was ever champion of the world he will be told No, but that another JOHN SULLIVAN was taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island. Ah, if the MONTAGUES had the right idea JULIUS would never have hurriedly inquired, "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" without being instructed in the matter of the empirical ego.

Thus will curiosity cease to be what it seemed to BURKE, the most superficial of all the affections. The satisfaction of its appetite will no longer be left to the individual. It will open its mouth for a bonbon of vanity, and in will pop, as well, the oatmeal cookie of fact. That frequent inquiry, "Where's the big fire?" will lead to the study of combustion and its earliest appearance among the Aryans.

The subject of the diversion of curiosity into valuable grooves is indeed absorbing, but a hand has started to play in front of the neighboring City Hall and we are thrilled with what JOHNSON called "one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect."

The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported favorably a bill for the punishment of disloyalists, to which it has attached an amendment proposed by Senator POINDEXTER under the terms of which it would be unlawful and punishable by imprisonment for twenty years and a fine of \$10,000 for any person:

"In the presence or hearing of others, to utter any disloyal, threatening, profane, violent, scurrilous, contemptuous, abusive or seditious language about the Government of the United States, or the Constitution of the United States, or the President of the United States, or the flag of the United States, or the uniform of the army or navy of the United States, or the good and welfare of the United States, or any other language calculated to bring the United States or the United States Government or the President of the United States or the Constitution of the United States or the army or navy or soldiers or sailors of the United States or the flag of the United States, or the good and welfare of the United States, into contempt, scorn, contumely or disrespect; or any language calculated to incite or inflame resistance to any duly constituted Federal or State authority in connection with the prosecution of the war, or to threaten the good or welfare of the United States or the United States Government, or to advise, urge or incite any curtailment of production in this country of any thing or things, product of products necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war in which the United States may be engaged, with intent by such curtailment to cripple or hinder the United States in the prosecution of such war."

This is a broad and all inclusive measure, but not broader than patriotic citizens would have the law. Since the war began numerous cases have arisen in which the conduct of individuals not well disposed toward the Constitution and the Government has been obviously against the public interest, but of such a nature that they could not be prosecuted for an offense under existing statutes.

In this situation many enemies of the United States have been able to pursue hostile practices without incurring legal penalties. They have actually injured the country and imperiled the peace of the communities in which they carried on their activities, but no authority for their punishment existed. More than once their neighbors have undertaken to suppress them by violence, necessitating the employment of force to restore good order.

It is highly desirable that the statutes should be amended to eliminate the danger that now exists, and while the POINDEXTER amendment might be improved in detail, the principle on which it is founded is altogether praiseworthy.

Chicago has produced a draftsman who is willing to serve in the army if he is allowed to pick the camp in which his training shall be carried on. Perhaps he will not be as particular about the prison to which he may be sent.

Our enemies must be conquered morally—COWARD CEMENTIN.

Was that the reason for killing people in church?

It is odd that so many famous pugilists have died within a few months. The passing of CHARLEY MORTON, who reigned as champion included FITZSIMMONS, SULLIVAN, GOVERNOR, MIKE DONOVAN and ALBUQUERQUE DANCY.

Prohibition has occupied all of Indiana and has driven a wedge into Illinois.

Whether the Ukraine had only food enough for its own needs or whether, as many believe, its granaries were filled, the fact remains that Germany is going breakfasting from Kiev. The question, "Well, what can Germany do even if Russia is helpless?" is being answered in a bitterly practical way.

Raphaela Johanna Anggie, a Holstein cow at the Sapsa State Hospital, has broken the world's record for milk production in thirty days. It was announced today by the State Board of Control. Her record was 2,754 pounds, or 1,897 quarts in a month. The previous high figure for thirty days is said to have been 2,767 pounds.—Despatch from Sacramento, Cal.

THE CONVERTED PACIFIST.

To Fight in Democracy's Revolution Is an Honorable Duty.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The Bible says "Thou shalt not kill," and to me this has but one interpretation. Years ago, in a school debate, I said that a State was no exception to this rule. One is self-defense, the other, and the more sacred of the two, is the taking of life in case of revolution. The latter is so privileged an occasion that one not only needs not justify his act, but can be proud of it. There is nothing in the State that is greater than freedom and liberty, and when that is in stake it becomes one's duty to kill the tyrant. No sacrifices are too great.

With those principles to start with, I confess that although I was always properly I could and would do nothing to help the war. I was against our entry into the war, and was absolutely neutral, as neutral as a law-abiding citizen could be, after our entry into the conflict. I could see nothing but murder in this war, a quarrel between Germany and the rest of Europe over material advantages, and that at the sacrifice of human life. I regretted that capital succeeded in dragging us into the war, and I frowned at women in recruiting stations inducing men to enlist; the nerve, I thought; but, alas, I no longer think so. I not only think a woman justified in prompting the men to enlist, but from upon her for not demanding that she too be enlisted.

Whatever may have been the beginning of the war, whatever may have been the motives on the part of the belligerents, the point remains that this war developed into one international revolution, one great struggle for democracy, and no sacrifice is too great in the struggle against the German tyrant.

I for one could not believe that German Kultur stood for so little, and considering some of the splendid social laws of Germany and her advances in the sociological field I could not believe that she stood for so much. I favored a shorter map lower a popular rule, but considered some of the German laws far more civilized and hence no calamity to the people.

German negotiations and peace with Russia and Rumania could not but conserve every lover of liberty and of government for the people that the great autocratic serpent of the ages lay hidden behind German Kultur and social reforms and that the people's lives were in danger. If she wins there will be a new era of oppression and suffering, and the people of the world will be put back a couple of centuries.

Germany, worse than Russia, has hidden her tyranny under a cover of apparent social reforms and by her paternal government has not only invigorated the German workman but labor as well as the rights of the foreigner. A world conquest for the foreigner to every American thinking person, but Germany is now struggling for this very thing, and unless the Allies succeed we must be ready for struggle on this continent.

This is an appeal not only to the women of the United States to enlist, but to the men of the United States to shoulder to shoulder with their brothers in arms, but also to our Government to accept their services. Such a step would not only encourage the men, swell our armies and insure victory (as there is nothing like voluntary service and the feeling of devotion to the right), but it would also place old Glory where she belongs, and no height of triumph is too much for this country, because regardless of some greedy capitalists who are the only country that is fighting for democracy. ROSALIE F. JANKOW, New York, April 2.

TRADE BRIEFS.

A firm in Portuguese East Africa has installed about machinery for bakeries, for making flour and for building roads.

Agencies for sewing machines and typewriters are being organized in Cuba, Cateague and terms of sale are requested.

There is a market in Seville, Spain, for soda, lubricating oils, greases and caustic for washing.

Seedling plants, snap fasteners, trousers, hats and other supplies for the troops are being ordered by the War Department in France.

Imports of olive liquor, a marmoset dye, into this country from Leeds, England, decreased from 516,766 pounds in 1916 to 211,700 pounds in 1917.

Due to the increased use of ostrich feathers. The price of the dye has doubled since 1914.

The formation of Miami Department of Public Health has resulted in an increased demand for medical and surgical supplies for the hospitals of that country. About two million persons were vaccinated in 1917, and an anti-venereal campaign, and the department worked vigorously to eradicate the disease.

Many hospitals and dispensaries were built. Prince Sakol and Dr. Itzhak, an American, are in charge of the work being done.

METRIC SYSTEM FLAWS.

Opinions of a Scientist Who Retains Only the Cubic Centimeter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Most likely the movement to enforce the use of the metric system is more strenuously resisted at the present time than heretofore. For this there is good reason: a greater number of machines of precision are now employed on Government work than ever before and war officials are pressing the contractors to make the metric system the basis for the purpose of rebuilding precision machinery to the metric system means not only an enforced loss to contractors, but a delay varying from several months to two or three years.

The metric system was authorized to be used in the United States more than thirty years ago. If it possessed any material advantage over the system now in use, it is not unreasonable to suppose that its use would have come about, in part at least. As a matter of fact its use is restricted to certain laboratories. Its use in these is due to the fact that the employees of these laboratories had their training abroad.

The keynote to the units of magnitude in the various industries is convenience. As a rule, each general industry has its own units, and they are created because of their convenience. A few amiable gentlemen who are not content with continued activity in the form of a committee of units which have evolved through long years of experience be dropped at the most critical period of the country's history, and that new and arbitrary units be used no less volens. The compulsory part of the scheme is necessary because of the convenience of the system been used except by compulsion.

As a student I learned to use the metric system in the chemical laboratory of a university. In the years that have passed I have dropped practically everything but the cubic centimeter, and in my specific work I find no other unit more convenient. In just measurement I dropped the micron for another unit simply for convenience.

So far as the saving of time is concerned I can see a direct advantage in a decimal system for precision measurement. The inch is just as capable of decimal subdivision as the centimeter. In precise mechanical work the subdivisions are almost always on a decimal scale. For domestic purposes a unit number that can be successfully halved always has been and always will be the most desirable and the most practical.

As an example of the possible inconvenience of enforced metric magnitudes let me take the centigrade thermometer. Its degree value is so large that, to conform to the necessities of the case, a split degree expressed in decimals is unavoidable. In other words, instead of expressing temperature in degrees, we use three figures and a decimal point are necessary, and there you are.

JACQUES W. KELWAY, F. I. G. S. MOUNT VERNON, April 3.

A CYNIC ON THE ROAD.

Perhaps the Sensible Good Roads Movement Meets His Wishes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Like many other people, the one who now pines for the rehabilitation of the old canals, only in that it does not do so far enough. There are other routes, many of them paralleling the canals, which have long been disused for the same reasons which caused the abandonment of the waterways, yet which should receive the rehabilitation of the old canals. The uplifting spirit of the age; I mean the old stage coach lines.

What of romance, beauty, thrill, boldness, gallantry and all the other old time graces and virtues is brought to mind by the very name. That they carried more than just a load of mail and passengers, a courier, a messenger, a well known, why not give them at least equal consideration with the canals? Were we not informed in The Sun the other day that the Anthracite Coal Commission has given its word that the canals were used for the bulk of the coal transportation of a quarter century back?

Now, of course, as was said and is to be expected, there are old fogies and duffers still surviving who insist on telling of other things which they are determined on calling "facts." An instance comes to mind, the knowledge may be worth quoting. The late Thomas Thornburg Wierman of Harrisburg, Pa., many years chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Canal Company, ranging from the coal regions of central Pennsylvania to the head of Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Md., told me that the canal could not then compete with the railroad; that is to say, the carriage of coal by these "water routes" was a losing game, and in consequence that the man who relied upon it would have to pay more for his coal.

His words cannot, therefore, have any weight with more "modern" thought. In fact, I think he died before the invention of the word "uplift," certainly before it had taken upon itself its present and "higher" meaning. To such ancient and reactionary notions, as Mr. Wierman's, no doubt, three were worth more than two, and a higher cost less desirable than a lower. Besides, such considerations cannot be allowed to stand in the way of "modern progress," "advancement," "uplift" and the other things of the kind.

Have we not just spent \$1,000,000 on a canal through this State to "encourage the shipping trade"? What matters it if we could have built two railroads for the money? What boots it that the charge on every ton of freight by this water route exceeds with it an immense proportionate sum not appearing on the bill of the shipper but paid obligingly by those who do not do the shipping. I mean the taxpayers?

Now, with all this array of fact behind me, am I not certainly on firm ground in asking for rehabilitation of the old stage coach routes? Can I see how a single "uplift," "reform" or advance agent of prosperity can say me nay or pick one flaw in my logic. But especially and emphatically do I appeal to all my brethren of the Socialist faith to rally to my defense and lend their vociferation to the cause of the general advancement as represented in the restoration of an ancient industry and the reconstitution of the age of romance—all, of course, at the proper cost and charge of some one else than the well-to-do taxpayers, and as for "profit," "paying," "loss," "economic destruction" and all that sort of thing, why?

Dash profit! Confound economist! Profit is made—but not too enough—for the fellow who is always saying "I won't pay!" D. G. BROOKLYN, April 2.

Mathematics.

Knicker—What does the German teacher teach?

Knicker—Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

DIRECT PRIMARIES MENACE INTEGRITY OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS.

Job E. Hodges Explains the Danger They Hold for a Nation Bound to Republican Principles of Government.

Regarding the direct primaries, the position I took at Albany was not accidental. From the first I have opposed them on principle and in their prospective and later results.

No system of nominating procedure can ever be effective without the interest accompanied by active participation by the voter. Much of the criticism regarding conventions was justified in previous years by unseemly wrangles before committees on contested seats. Both leading parties were culpable. The findings of committees were feeling run high always left bitterness. Much of that, however, was eliminated in process of time, but not completely.

The bill pending in Albany has a provision which will practically eliminate this feature entirely. It provides that delegates elected shall be treated in the same way as the candidates, namely, that the question of regularity shall be left entirely to the courts, certified to the proper officials, and that certificate of election shall be granted attested by the proper authority, which shall admit the delegate to a seat in the convention.

The direct primary, to my mind, was imposed upon the people by way of protest against something not logically argued out, and for which the law itself did not furnish an antidote. Theoretically it was to eliminate a party boss, so called.

A party boss, as you and I know, is nothing more than an individual of continued activity with an accumulation of acquaintance and friends, with years in experience, who acquired the habit of voting together for personal or, what they believe, reasons of party regularity. This "boss" could not remain in his position at all except for organizations. What the country needs on the party roll who almost invariably outnumber him. Where they do not so outnumber him and his associates he represents the majority. He therefore secures his leadership by actual vote, by silent acquiescence or by default in interest on the part of those who should not be indifferent to whether they insure the majority.

As the country has increased and will increase in numbers, the necessity for parties becomes more apparent and more of a requirement to accomplish effective results. Parties, speaking through organizations and voicing their opinions through conventions in the form of a party platform, become responsible. The localizing of this responsibility enables the voter on succeeding elections to express his approval or disapproval. Therefore, parties assume their proper function, and their perpetuation in authority or their being driven from it depends upon whether they insure the majority by their ability to represent that public in legislative halls and administrative offices.

The direct primaries, which are direct and primary only in name, are antipodal and antagonistic to party organizations. What the country needs at this moment more than anything else, in nation and State, is affirmative, constructive thinking. It frequently happens that the best work done through a majority party in legislation comes from the activities of those who insure the majority. A cohesive minority competing in suggestion for the welfare of the State or nation. Where there is not an active and aggressive minority the majority party frequently has become the supine representative of the status quo.

The daily press necessarily is critical. Psychologically it accomplishes its best result in criticism. It is effective on account of its influence, the number of its readers, and because, theoretically, it speaks impersonally. As a matter of fact, it reflects the morale and high-mindedness of its own people.

There are few men who can afford the luxury of undertaking the tremendous expense of running a newspaper without profit out of their own pocket. It is human, therefore, and entirely logical that a newspaper dependent for its continuance upon its ability to make money. In a degree it is fortunate for the public because its free competition in the procuring of news, the disseminating of ideas, the furnishing of a clearing house for communications give the public an advantage it otherwise would not have. The fact remains, however, that owners of newspapers are human, and it would be silly to expect that they can resolve themselves into impersonal.

Results accomplished by the direct primaries are not conceived as a means of elevating and remedying the character of the candidates, but that will always crop up and act through the control of the various factions which had been effective in causing the downfall of this or that party according as its vitality had been sapped by the indifference of its voters generally or the unwisdom and instability leadership which merely reared its head.

You will pardon my writing at such length, but I feel seriously on this subject, and I feel that what the country needs and crying needs is restoration of the opportunity and requirement for consultation in the open, with the attendant respect, but of thoughtful men, in a long run will control in their endeavor to make government effective, remedial and beneficial to the public at large.

Job E. Hodges.
Hon. Milo Shanks, Chairman, N. Y. State Committee on Direct Primaries, New York, April 2.

MAN'S DAY OF REST.

A Pacific Coast Opinion That He Should Spend It in Quiet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I do not regard very seriously this movement